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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/778,863	02/08/2001	Ryuji Sato	2000-29876US	6175

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EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/778,863

Applicant(s)

SATO, RYUJI

Examiner

Firmin Backer

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Request for Reconsideration

This is in response to a request for reconsideration file November 30th, 2004. Claims 1-10 are being reconsidered in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hurwitz et al (U.S. Patent No 6,748,366).

4. As per claims 1-20, Hurwitz et al teaches a merchandise transaction method on online shopping an online shopping system comprising a first step in which an intermediary receives information about an electronic mail keeper to which a user desires transaction, information about commodities to be purchased by the user and a packet an executes an order and payment of commodities to an electronic mail keeper in behalf of the user and second step in which the intermediary receives a secret decryption key for the packet transmitted from the user in exchange of the commodities and then obtains a credit card number of the user by the deciphering the packet cipher.... (see figs 1, 2, column 2 line 49 to 5 lines 25).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 30th, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. Applicant argues that the prior art fail to teach inventive concept wherein a intermediary is used in exchange of commodities between a buyer and a seller. Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant characterization of the prior art. Hurwitz teach a person-to-person electronic commerce system that protects the anonymity of buyers and sellers. The system includes an auction web site for holding an electronic auction of goods resulting in a transaction between a buyer and a seller, and a trusted intermediary, coupled to the auction web site, to obtain transaction, buyer, and seller information from the auction web site, to arrange for shipment of the goods with a selected shipper, to generate an encrypted mailing label, at least part of the transaction, buyer, and seller information being included as part of the encrypted mailing label, to send the encrypted mailing label to the seller, to receive notification of acceptance by the buyer once buyer receives the goods from the seller via the shipper, and to send payment for the goods to the seller. Furthermore, the intermediary trusted authority work by interacting with automated transaction fulfillment systems to obtain, store, and report transaction participant performance information. Transaction fulfillment systems for person-to-person electronic commerce web sites automate payment and shipping functions between transaction participants by acting as a trusted intermediary in order to protect the anonymity of buyers and sellers according to an embodiment

Art Unit: 3621

of the present invention. A buyer 10 and a seller 12 may "meet" in cyberspace at a web site run by an on-line auction house, classified advertising manager, or trading portal 14 (generally referred to herein as "auction site"). As is well-known in the art, buyers and sellers may visit the auction site by using browser and network connectivity software running on a machine such as a personal computer (PC) system, handheld communications device, cellular telephone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other device. The buyer 10, seller 12, and auction site 14 may be connected via a communications network (not shown), such as the Internet. The buyer and seller interact with each other on-line in any one of numerous transaction types. One such transaction type is an auction. When a transaction is entered into by the buyer and seller, transaction fulfillment functions such as payment and shipping may be provided by trusted intermediary.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

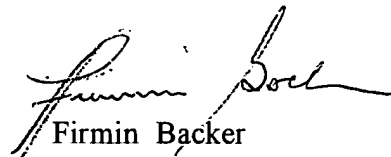
Art Unit: 3621

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Firmin Backer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

February 27, 2005